

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09783 091155Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4095

S E C R E T GENEVA 9783

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FOR AMB SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS THE SECRETARY'S PARTY IN BRUSSELS

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: RICHARD'S DEC 8 MEETING WITH SMITH

1. SMITH AND THE PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION CALLED ON RICHARD THE EVENING OF DEC 8. SMITH WAS IN WHAT RICHARD DESCRIBED TO BE A "SPITTING, ANGRY MOOD." RICHARD MET PRIVATELY WITH SMITH FOR 10 MINUTES BUT WAS BARELY ABLE TO CALM HIM DOWN.

2. SMITH LED OFF WITH A CHARGE THAT THE BRITISH HAD MISLED HIM ABOUT THE REAL PURPOSES OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE AMERICANS HAD MISLED HIM AS WELL. BOTH THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS HAVE CLEARLY BEEN MISLED BY THE AFRICANS. AFTER ALMOST ONE HOUR OF SMITH'S DISPLEASURE, RICHARD SAID HE CALMED DOWN AND SAID THERE WAS NO POINT IN GOING FURTHER INTO PAST HISTORY.

3. SMITH SAID HE HAD NO INTENTION OF PUTTING FORWARD A PAPER AT THE CONFERENCE WHICH DREW FROM ANNEX C. IT WAS THE JOB OF THE BRITISH TO SEL THE FIVE POINTS AND ANNEX C AND NOT HIS. HE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS HOW THIS OBJECTIVE COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED

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BUT NOT WHETHER IT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT. SMITH

REMARKED THAT HE NOW UNDERSTOOD BOTH THE FIVE POINTS AND ANNEX C WOULD NOT SURVIVE DEBATE IN GENEVA AND QUESTIONED WHETHER GOING THROUGH THE CHARADE HAD ANY MERIT.

4. PERHAPS REVEALING SMITH'S PLAN, PARTRIDGE INTERVENED AND SAID "PRIME MINISTER, YOU MUST BE ABLE TO SAY THAT YOU WERE DENIED AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT FORWARD THE COUNCIL OF STATE." SMITH CAME BACK AND SAID THAT HE WAS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF AN EARLY ADJOURNMENT OF THE CONFERENCE. THE PARTIES WOULD RETURN TO RHODESIA AND PERHAPS "SANITY COULD EMERGE." HE REMINDED RICHARD TESTILY THAT "ALL WILL BE UP AGAIN FOR NEGOTIATION, EVEN MY COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE."

5. SMITH CALMED DOWN AND ASKED RICHARD WHAT COULD BE DONE TO "SALVAGE THIS MESS." RICHARD ARGUED THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT IT WAS STILL POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT IN WHICH WHITES WOULD SHARE POWER IN THE INTERIM AND POST MAJORITY RULE GOVERNMENT. HE ASKED SMITH IF HE WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT PACKAGE. SMITH SAID HE WAS BUT WOULD NEED A CONFIRMATION IN WRITING FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WHICH SPELLED OUT EXACTLY WHAT THE BRITISH HAD IN MIND. HE HAD COME TO GENEVA TO DISCUSS THE ORGANIZATION OF A COUNCIL OF STATE AND IF THAT PROPOSAL WOULD NOT CARRY IN GENEVA, HE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE FURTHER TIME TO STUDY THE SITUATION AND THE ALTERNATIVES.

6. RICHARD IS MEETING SMITH AGAIN AT 10:30 ON DEC 9. RICHARD IS CALM BUT FOUND SMITH TO BE TOUGH AND UNYIELDING. HE APPEARED, ACCORDING TO RICHARD, TO BE SETTING UP HIS DEFENSE AND READYING HIMSELF TO ACCUSE THE BRITISH OF NOT HAVING GIVEN THE "CONTRACT" AN HONEST RUN. SMITH LEFT RICHARD WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WOULD NOT TABLE A NEGOTIATING POSITION ON WHICH THE CONFERENCE COULD PROCEED. SMITH WANTS AN ADJOURNMENT. CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERIM GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETING REPORTS, MINORITIES, NATIONALISTS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA09783
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840099-0791
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761259/aaaabytw.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: RICHARD'S DEC 8 MEETING WITH SMITH
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, UK, (RICHARD, IVOR), (SMITH, IAN)
To: STATE SS SECRETARY BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006